

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10
/117 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. CULLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

-----260617Z 103414 /22

R 242305Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
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USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 23

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 23,
1977:

Q. JODY, DOES THE PRESIDENT BELIEVE THE 1967 ISRAELI
BORDERS MAY HAVE BEEN MODIFIED TO THE EXTENT OF SOMETHING
LIKE 30 MILES IN ADDITION TO TERRITORY THEN OCCUPIED IN
'67?

MR. POWELL: I AM FAMILIAR WITH TWO REPORTS THAT
REPORTEDLY GIVE THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO
BOUNDARIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND SOME OTHER FACTORS,
THAT THOSE REPORTS ARE PURE FICTION; THAT THE PRESIDENT

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NOR HIS NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, NOR THE ADMINISTRATION
HAS TAKEN ANY SUCH POSITION ON THESE MATTERS; THAT AS WE
HAVE SAID OVER AND OVER AGAIN, THEY MUST BE SETTLED AMONG
THE PARTIES THERE.

I CAN ALSO TELL YOU THAT IN THE CASE OF NEITHER OF THE TWO

REPORTS THAT I AM FAMILIAR WITH, WAS THERE ANY ATTEMPT TO
VERIFY THOSE REPORTS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE. IF THERE HAD
BEEN, THEN AN ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN ISSUED AT THE
TIME.

Q. ON THE REPORTS THAT YOU DESCRIBED AS FICTION, ONE OF
THOSE REPORTS SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT IS SAID TO BELIEVE
THAT THE JORDAN RIVER IS A NATURAL DEFENSE LINE. IS THAT
RIGHT?

MR. POWELL: THE PRESIDENT HAS TAKEN NO POSITION
ON THAT AT ALL, NOR HAS HE NOR HIS NATIONAL SECURITY

ADVISER EVER SAID SUCH A THING.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND? DOES THAT FALL IN THE SAME DENIAL AREA?

MR. POWELL: NEITHER THE PRESIDENT NOR -- THOSE ACCOUNTS, THEY JUST DIDN'T TAKE PLACE.

Q. IF THE FOREIGN DIPLOMAT IS TELLING PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON THAT HIGH ADVISERS TO THE PRESIDENT ARE SAYING IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION THAT HE BELIEVES THESE THINGS, THEN IT IS THAT FOREIGN DIPLOMAT THAT IS SPREADING THESE FICTIONALIZED ACCOUNTS AROUND.

MR. POWELL: I CAN'T SPEAK TO THE SOURCE OF IT, BUT IF IT WAS A FOREIGN DIPLOMAT, THE FOREIGN DIPLOMAT HAS NO ACCESS TO THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA OF THIS COUNTRY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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AND OF ITSELF. THE QUESTION OF VERIFYING A STORY BEFORE IT IS PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC SEEMS TO ME TO FALL UPON THE REPORTER.

Q. JODY, WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON AIR FORCE ONE LAST WEEK ON THE WAY TO NEW YORK THAT HE DOES THINK THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND MIGHT BE IN JORDAN?

MR. POWELL: IT LEAVES IT EXACTLY WHERE IT WAS THEN' THAT THAT IS A POSSIBILITY.

Q. BUT THAT IS NOT HIS PREFERENCE, NECESSARILY:

MR. POWELL: HE HAS NOT EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE IN THIS MATTER. HE HAS SAID OVER AND OVER AGAIN THAT THESE THINGS ARE MATTERS THAT MUST BE SETTLED --

Q. ON AIR FORCE ONE HE ALSO SAID "OR PERHAPS SOMEWHERE ELSE."

MR. POWELL: THAT IS EXACTLY RIGHT.

Q. IT IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY THEN THAT HE BELIEVES THE JORDAN RIVER IS A NATURAL DEFENSE LINE -- OR THAT IS NOT WHAT HE SAYS, BUT IT IS A POSSIBILITY THAT HE COULD FEEL THAT WAY?

MR. POWELL: THAT IS A POSSIBILITY, I SUPPOSE, BUT ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT HE HAS NOT EXPRESSED HIMSELF. SO, PRESUMABLY ANYTHING IS A POSSIBILITY.

Q. HE NEVER EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN TERMS OF OPTIONS; YOU
ARE SAYING PERHAPS THIS. ARE YOU SAYING YOU ARE DENYING
THAT HE EVER SAID IT IS POSSIBLE THIS MIGHT BE A
FEASIBLE AGREEMENT -- YOU ARE SAYING THAT HE NEVER EVEN
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SAID THAT?

MR. POWELL: I CAN'T SPEAK TO EVERYTHING THE PRESIDENT --
BUT I DO HAPPEN TO KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR
REPORT TO KNOW THAT THE THINGS WHICH DR. BRZEZINSKI
SUPPOSEDLY SAID AND ATTRIBUTED TO THE PRESIDENT'S
FEELINGS, DR. BRZEZINSKI NEVER SAID.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EOJONES:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770104-0228
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3004010
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 23 FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MA
TAGS: PFOR, XF
To: ABU DHABI ALGIERS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4a9d61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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22 May 2009
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